



Physical Therapy Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs

The mission of the Physical Therapy Board of California is to promote and protect the interests of the people of California by administering and enforcing the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

2005 Strategic Plan

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Introduction

The Physical Therapy Board of California's Strategic Plan was adopted on May 12, 2005.

In 1953 the Physical Therapy Examining Committee was created by Chapter 1823, statutes of 1953 (AB1001). While the name has been changed to the Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC), the charge to the PTBC by the legislature has been protecting the public from the incompetent, unprofessional or criminal practice of physical therapy since its inception. The goals and objectives contained in the Strategic Plan build on that charge. The PTBC is one of approximately thirty regulatory entities which exist under the organizational structure of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The PTBC has close and cooperative relationship with DCA.

The PTBC consists of seven members (four licensed physical therapists and three public members) who serve four-year terms (a maximum of two terms). The Governor appoints the four licensed physical therapists and one public member. The Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint one public member. Board members are required to complete a Form 700 – Conflict of Interest Statement, and they are required to submit this statement to the Fair Political Practices Commission each year. Additionally, the board members are required to complete ethics training every two years.

The PTBC appoints an executive officer as its administrator. The executive officer serves solely in the interest of the consumers of physical therapy services in California, as does the PTBC. The executive officer oversees the board's staff and ensures that all of its programs function efficiently and effectively.

The PTBC is funded through license and application fees. The board receives no General Fund monies from the State of California.

Licensed physical therapists may practice physical therapy independently. To become licensed, one must possess a post baccalaureate degree in physical therapy, pass the national physical therapy examination (NPTE), and pass the California Law Examination (CLE). Foreign educated physical therapists must also pass a period of clinical service after passing the NPTE.

Licensed physical therapist assistants assist a physical therapist in the practice of physical therapy. To become licensed, one must possess an associate's degree in physical therapy or qualify by meeting the equivalency requirements. A physical therapist assistant is under the supervision of a physical therapist.

Physical therapy aide is an unlicensed person who performs designated routine physical therapy tasks under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

Mission

The mission of the Physical Therapy Board of California is to promote and protect the interests of the people of California by administering and enforcing the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

Vision

The Physical Therapy Board of California will provide effective and consistent regulation of the practice of physical therapy to ensure protection of the consumer. California's physical therapy consumers and practitioners will enjoy a safe, fair and competitive marketplace by virtue of the efforts of the Board.

Description of the Board's Functions

The function of the Physical Therapy Board of California is to:

- Promote legal and ethical standards of professional conduct
- Promote the competent and professional practice of physical therapy
- Maintain and enforce relevant regulations and statutes
- Investigate the background of applicants
- Administer licensing examinations
- Promote a national examination program that is reflective of the current practice of physical therapy
- License physical therapists and physical therapist assistants
- Provide for licensure of foreign educated physical therapists who have education which is substantially equivalent to California requirements
- Certify physical therapists to perform electromyography
- Investigate complaints from consumers
- Take disciplinary actions against licensees
- Educate consumers about patient's rights and quality of service
- Monitor marketplace trends in health care so that the Board's programs and policies are contemporary, relevant and responsive
- Partner with consumer and regulatory groups in California and the nation

Strategic Goals

The Physical Therapy Board of California has adopted the following strategic goals for 2005, which provide the framework for furthering its mission.

Goal 1 – Enforcement Program

- Investigate complaints and resolve them in the most impartial, accurate, expeditious and cost effective manner.

Goal 2 – Examination Program

- Ensure the examination for licensure in the physical therapy professions is valid, reliable, legally defensible and accessible.

Goal 3 – Licensing Program

- Provide an efficient and responsive process that ensures qualified individuals are licensed in the physical therapy profession in California.

Goal 4 – Education and Outreach Program

- Provide information to consumers which enable them to make informed choices in the selection of physical therapy care providers and provide physical therapy practitioners the information they need to practice within the legal requirements of California.

Goal 5 – Diversion Program

- Provide physical therapy professionals a means to retain their license and practice physical therapy in a safe and effective manner.

Goal 6 – Administration Program

- Enhance the delivery of its products and services to the people of California in the most innovative way.

Enforcement Program

Goal One:

Investigate complaints and resolve them in the most impartial, accurate, expeditious and cost effective manner.

1. A Complete the revision of the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines.
(Target Date: 12/31/06)
1. B Develop and implement orders of abatement compliance program.
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
1. C Reduce the average time to resolve consumer complaints to 18 months.
(Target Date: 12/31/07)
1. D Increase the number of probationers who successfully complete probation.
(Target Date: 09/30/08)
1. E Develop a plan to increase the Board's role in regulating physical therapy practice by unlicensed individuals.
(Target Date: 03/31/07)
1. F Staff will develop and implement a database to track all enforcement.
(Target Date: 12/31/10)

Performance Measures

- *Has staff completed the revision of the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines?*
- *Has the Board implemented orders of abatement compliance program?*
- *Has staff reduced the average time to resolve consumer complaints to fewer than 18 months?*
- *Has the number of probationers who have successfully completed probation increased?*
- *Has staff developed a plan to increase the Board's role in regulating physical therapy practice by unlicensed individuals?*
- *Has the Board implemented a database to track all enforcement?*

Examination Program

Goal Two:

Ensure the examinations for licensure in the physical therapy professions are valid, reliable, legally defensible and accessible.

- 2. A Update the California Law Examination.
(Target Date: 03/31/06)
- 2. B Obtain Federation approval to permit California direct examination prior to application to the Board.
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 2. C Explore methods to ensure the candidate's knowledge of the California laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy.
(Target Date: 03/31/10)

Performance Measures

- *Have the California Law Examination been updated?*
- *Has the Board advocated the Federation provide direct examination?*
- *Has the Board advocated the Federation provided examination results immediately upon completion of the examination?*
- *Are there new methods to accessing the California Law Examination?*

Goal 3:

Provide an efficient and responsive process that ensures qualified individuals are licensed in the physical therapy profession in California.

- 3. A Complete the regulatory process to implement the Course Work Evaluation Tool for the evaluation of foreign physical therapy education.
(Target Date: 03/31/06)
- 3. B Begin issuing a non-paper license that includes a photograph of the licensee.
(Target Date: 03/31/08)
- 3. C Begin imaging all licensing and enforcement records to ensure they could be reproduced if a disaster (flood, fire, theft, etc) occurred.
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 3. D Remove barriers to foreign educated physical therapists to meet standards of licensure in California.
(Target Date: 03/31/10)
- 3. E Establish continuing competency requirements for license renewal.
(Target Date: 01/31/08)
- 3. F Eliminate the delinquent grace renewal fee.
(Target Date: 03/31/06)
- 3. G Repeal California Code of Regulation 1398.47(a)(2) and (b), Equivalency Requirements.
(Target Date: 01/01/07)

Performance Measures

- *Has the Course Work Evaluation Tool been established in regulation?*
- *Has the Board implemented photo licenses?*
- *Has the Board completed imaging all licensing and enforcement records to ensure reproduction in the event of a disaster?*
- *Has the Board removed barriers to foreign educated physical therapists to meet standards of licensure in California?*
- *Has the Board established continuing competency requirements for license renewal?*
- *Did the Board eliminate the delinquent grace renewal fee?*
- *Has the Board eliminated physical therapist assistants applying under 1398.47, Equivalency?*

Goal 4:

Provide information to consumers which enable them to make informed choices in the selection of physical therapy care providers, and provide physical therapy practitioners the information they need to practice within the legal requirements of California.

- 4. A Develop and implement a consumer/student outreach program.
(Target Date: 03/31/08)
- 4. B Publish a plain language version of the Board's laws and regulations.
(Target Date: 09/30/07)
- 4. C Develop and implement distributing information inserts in all renewal mailings.
(Target Date: 12/31/06)
- 4. D Staff will develop a plan for Board Members and staff to actively participate in the annual meetings, committees, and task forces of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, Citizens Advocacy Center, CLEAR, and FARB.
(Target Date: 06/30/08)
- 4. E Each Board member will meet with their respective legislator.
(Target Date: 12/31/05)
- 4. F Increase consumer awareness of the PTBC and its program and services.
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 4. G Identify the need for additional licensed physical therapist practitioners within the state of California. (Target Date: 12/31/08)

Performance Measures

- *Has the Board implemented a consumer outreach program?*
- *Has the Board published a plain language version of the Board's laws and regulations?*
- *Has the Board distributed informational inserts in all renewal mailings?*
- *Has the staff developed a plan for Board Members and staff to actively participate in the annual meetings, committees, and task forces of the FSBPT, CAC, CLEAR, and FARB?*
- *Has each Board Member met with their respective legislature?*
- *Has the Board increased consumer awareness of the PTBC and its program and services?*
- *Has staff identified the need for additional licensed physical therapist practitioners within the State of California?*

Goal 5:

Provide physical therapy professionals a means to retain their license and practice physical therapy in a safe and effective manner.

5. A Increase the awareness and participation in the diversion program among prospective and licensed physical therapy professionals in California.
(Target Date: 12/31/08)

Performance Measures

- *Has the Board increased the awareness and participation in the diversion program among perspective and licensed physical therapy professionals in California?*

Goal 6:

Enhance the delivery of its products and services to the people of California in the most innovative way.

- 6. A Realign the operational budget to coincide with the strategic needs of the Board.
(Target Date: 09/30/06)
- 6. B Complete the 2006 Sunset Review Report.
(Target Date: 12/31/06)
- 6. C Promote the ability for staff to effectuate their Individual Development Plans to enhance their current position and careers.
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 6. D Begin accepting all forms via the Internet.
(Target Date: 03/31/08)
- 6. E Begin accepting fees electronically.
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 6. F Include representation of a physical therapist assistant on the Board and enhance a representative of the public.
(Target Date: 06/30/07)

Performance Measures

- *Has the Board realigned the operation budget to coincide with the strategic needs of the Board?*
- *Is the 2006 Sunset Review completed?*
- *Has staff been able to enhance their knowledge in their current position and careers by effectuating their Individual Development Plan?*
- *Has the Board implemented filing of forms via the Internet?*
- *Has the Board implemented electronic payment for all licensee fees?*
- *Did the Board enhanced representation by a physical therapist assistant and an additional public member?*